

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
November 12, 2014

Present: Bill Lennon, Paul Shapiro, Kristin Schwab, Susannah Everett, Rich Miller, George Rawitscher (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 by Schwab.

The October 8, 2014 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Shapiro/Everett.

Walton reported that the planning and zoning commission (PZC) is reviewing a draft of Mansfield Tomorrow. Thus far the PZC has made minor grammatical changes. It is anticipated that the PZC review will be completed by January, at which time it will be available for public comment (and comment from the sustainability committee). The sustainability committee will also be asked by Town Council to review UConn's master plan, probably in January as well. It was recommended that the sustainability committee start reviewing the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan now, even though it is still in revision. If there are any major changes from the PZC, then committee members will be notified. A presentation about the UConn master plan was recently been made to Mansfield residents, and a second one is being planned. Walton will alert the committee of the next presentation. Miller has worked on the sustainability framework of the UConn master plan, and, if it is not premature to do so, he will circulate the outline of the sustainability framework for the committee to review prior to January.

On December 11, 2014, at 7 pm in the Mansfield Town Hall, Next Step Living will be offering a program on ductless mini split heating and cooling systems.

The Institute for Sustainability Energy, located at Eastern Connecticut State University, has offered to benchmark the Town's municipal energy data, analyze it and make recommendations on energy efficiency changes, in order to assist in developing a municipal energy action plan. Walton has a meeting with the Institute next week to get started with the process.

Rawitscher asked if the Sustainability committee would request an environmental review for the Four Corners sewer project. It was pointed out that for years the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has been an advocate for sewer and water in the Four Corners area because of environmental issues.

Rawitscher presented his idea of an itinerant climate change committee that would work with the other town committees and commissions. Members asked Rawitscher for a written outline that spells out the role of this committee. The Connecticut Institute for Resiliency and Climate Adaptation at Avery Point is charged with training communities. Walton will contact James O'Donnell to see what kind of guidance the Institute might offer Mansfield.

Walton reported that five workshops are being developed for a spring 2015 organic land care workshops series – composting, organic lawns, edible landscapes, rain gardens/rain harvesting, permaculture gardens. The sustainability committee is interested in co-sponsoring the series with the solid waste

advisory committee. Potential presenters include Dawn Petinelli at UConn Soil Lab, Tanner Burgdorf and someone from the Sirius community.

Committee members agreed to continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm for year 2015. Walton will take care of room scheduling.

Miller will be presenting UConn's sustainability initiatives to the Conservation Commission on November 19, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall. The Teale Lecture Series continues with a "Climate Change in the American Mind" presentation on November 20, 2014 at 4:00 in the Dodd Center. On November 21, 2014 at 4 pm in the physics building, room P38, there will be a presentation on renewable energy research.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton